Docket No. AUS920011013US1

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of monitoring use of an instant messaging

5   user account, comprising:

receiving an instant message;

storing a transcript of the instant message in a
storage device;

analyzing the transcript for occurrences of

10   questionable content to thereby identify at least one
portion of the transcript having questionable content;
and

providing the at least one portion of the transcript
to a designated monitor of the instant messaging user

15   account.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is
implemented in an instant messaging service provider of a
distributed data processing system.

20

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is
implemented in a network service provider of a
distributed data processing system.

25   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is
implemented in a client device of a distributed data
processing system.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein providing the at

30   least one portion of the transcript to a designated
monitor includes transmitting the at least one portion of

Docket No. AUS920011013US1

the transcript as an attachment to an electronic mail message.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the electronic mail message is transmitted in response to a request from the designated monitor.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the at least one portion of the transcript to a designated monitor includes generating a web page through which the at least one portion of the transcript is provided to the designated monitor.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying at least one transcript characteristic of the transcript;
updating at least one instant messaging account characteristic based on the at least one transcript characteristic; and
providing the at least one instant messaging account characteristic to the designated monitor of the instant messaging account.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the at least one instant messaging account characteristic includes at least one of a ranked list of user identifications for most frequent incoming instant messages, a ranked list of user identifications for most frequent outbound target user identifications, a ranked list of most frequent recent incoming or outbound user identifications, a date/time distribution of instant messages, tracking of contact patterns for a particular user identification.

Docket No. AUS920011013US1

10. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the transcript includes filtering for text including at least one of proper names, addresses and phone numbers.

5

11. An apparatus for monitoring use of an instant messaging user account, comprising:

means for receiving an instant message;

means for storing a transcript of the instant

10 message in a storage device;

means for analyzing the transcript for occurrences of questionable content to thereby identify at least one portion of the transcript having questionable content; and

15 means for providing the at least one portion of the transcript to a designated monitor of the instant messaging user account.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is

20 part of an instant messaging service provider of a distributed data processing system.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is part of a network service provider of a distributed data

25 processing system.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is part of a client device of a distributed data processing system.

30

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for providing the at least one portion of the transcript to a

Docket No. AUS920011013US1

designated monitor includes means for transmitting the at least one portion of the transcript as an attachment to an electronic mail message.

5   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the electronic mail message is transmitted in response to a request from the designated monitor.

17.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for
10   providing the at least one portion of the transcript to a designated monitor includes means for generating a web page through which the at least one portion of the transcript is provided to the designated monitor.

15   18.   The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:
          means for identifying at least one transcript characteristic of the transcript;
          means for updating at least one instant messaging account characteristic based on the at least one
20   transcript characteristic; and
          means for providing the at least one instant messaging account characteristic to the designated monitor of the instant messaging account.

25   19.   The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the at least one instant messaging account characteristic includes at least one of a ranked list of user identifications for most frequent incoming instant messages, a ranked list of user identifications for most frequent outbound target
30   user identifications, a ranked list of most frequent

Docket No. AUS920011013US1

recent incoming or outbound user identifications, a date/time distribution of instant messages, tracking of contact patterns for a particular user identification.

5   20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for analyzing the transcript includes means for filtering for text including at least one of proper names, addresses and phone numbers.

10   21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for monitoring use of an instant messaging user account, comprising:

first instructions for receiving an instant message;

second instructions for storing a transcript of the

15 instant message in a storage device;

third instructions for analyzing the transcript for occurrences of questionable content to thereby identify at least one portion of the transcript having questionable content; and

20   fourth instructions for providing the at least one portion of the transcript to a designated monitor of the instant messaging user account.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein

25 the computer program product is implemented in association with instructions of an instant messaging service provider of a distributed data processing system.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein

30 the computer program product is implemented in association with instructions of a network service provider of a distributed data processing system.

Docket No. AUS920011013US1

24. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the computer program product is implemented in association with instructions of a client device of a

5   distributed data processing system.

25. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the fourth instructions for providing the at least one portion of the transcript to a designated monitor include

10   instructions for transmitting the at least one portion of the transcript as an attachment to an electronic mail message.

26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein

15   the electronic mail message is transmitted in response to a request from the designated monitor.

27. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the fourth instructions for providing the at least one

20   portion of the transcript to a designated monitor include instructions for generating a web page through which the at least one portion of the transcript is provided to the designated monitor.

25   28. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

        fifth instructions for identifying at least one transcript characteristic of the transcript;

        sixth instructions for updating at least one instant

30   messaging account characteristic based on the at least one transcript characteristic; and

Docket No. AUS920011013US1

seventh instructions for providing the at least one instant messaging account characteristic to the designated monitor of the instant messaging account.

5 29. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the at least one instant messaging account characteristic includes at least one of a ranked list of user identifications for most frequent incoming instant messages, a ranked list of user identifications for most

10 frequent outbound target user identifications, a ranked list of most frequent recent incoming or outbound user identifications, a date/time distribution of instant messages, tracking of contact patterns for a particular user identification.

15

30. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the third instructions for analyzing the transcript include instructions for filtering for text including at least one of proper names, addresses and phone numbers.